## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS CENTRAL DIVISION

In re

### TOP LINE GRANITE DESIGN, INC., Debtor

Chapter 11 Case No. 22-40216-EDK

# RESPONSE OF SUBCHAPTER V TRUSTEE TO MOTION OF UNITED STATES TRUSTEE TO CONVERT OR DISMISS CASE

NOW COMES Steven Weiss, Subchapter V Trustee (the "Trustee"), and submits the following response to the United States Trustee's Motion to Convert or Dismiss Case [Docket No. 240, the Motion]:

- 1. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 1 of the Motion.
- 2. The Trustee admits the allegations in  $\P$  2 of the Motion.
- 3. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 3 of the Motion.
- 4. The Trustee admits the allegations in  $\P$  4 of the Motion.
- 5. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 5 of the Motion.
- 6. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 6 of the Motion.
- 7. The Trustee admits the allegations in  $\P$  7 of the Motion.
- 8. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 8 of the Motion.

- 9. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 9 of the Motion, except the allegation that he has been unable to identify potential claims for recovery for the Debtor's creditors.
  - 10. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 10 of the Motion.
  - 11. The Trustee admits the allegations in ¶ 11 of the Motion.
  - 12. The Trustee admits the allegations in  $\P$  12 of the Motion.
- 13. The Trustee admits that the Debtor has accrued losses during the Chapter 11 case and, if a sale is not consummated promptly, there is cause for conversion (but not dismissal) of the case.
- 14. The Trustee admits the accrued losses during the Chapter 11 case and the other matters set forth in ¶ 14 of the Motion and, if a sale is not consummated promptly, there is cause for conversion (but not dismissal) of the case.
- 15. The Trustee admits that if the pending sale does not close, the interests of the estate and creditors would be served by conversion of the case, rather than dismissal.

#### **ADDITIONAL MATTERS**

16. The Trustee has been diligently inquiring with counsel for the Debtor and the prospective purchasers. As of the date of this response, the Trustee has been advised that the purchaser still intends to complete the sale, and is taking steps to do so. The Debtor has also advised there may be an alternative purchaser who is willing to step in and acquire the Debtor's assets on an expedited basis. However, if sale cannot be consummated very soon, the Debtor's continuing losses make it unfeasible for it to continue operating in Chapter 11.

17. As set forth in the Trustee's Report, there are multiple potential causes of action and

avoidance claims that could be pursued on behalf of creditors, including but not limited to:

claims against insiders, e.g., 347 Middlesex Road Realty Trust, Top Paving, Inc., and others;

preference claims; fraudulent transfer claims; claims against "hard money" lenders; and claims

against John Testa and Kitchen Concepts, Inc. The aggregate amount of these claims is

substantial. In addition, this Court recently entered an order against Brickstone Group, LLC for

damages for its willful violation of the automatic stay.

18. If the case were to be dismissed, these claims could not be pursued on behalf of

creditors and the estate.

19. For these reasons, while the Trustee generally concurs that if the sale is not

consummated, the Debtor has no ability to effectively reorganize, conversion, not dismissal,

would be the appropriate remedy.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of February, 2023.

STEVEN WEISS

SUBCHAPTER V TRUSTEE

By: /s/ Steven Weiss

Steven Weiss, Esquire

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Steven Weiss, of Shatz Schwartz and Fentin, P.C., do hereby certify that on February 21, 2023, a copy of the foregoing Motion to Appear Telephonically was mailed via electronic and/or first-class mail, postage pre-paid, to the following:

Top Line Granite Design, Inc. P.O. Box 705 353 Middlesex Road Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Alan L. Braunstein, Esq. Reimer & Braunstein, LLC 100 Cambridge Street Boston, MA 02114

> /S/ Steven Weiss Steven Weiss, Esquire